

LETTERS between the Commissioners of His  
Majesty's Treasury, and the Duke of ATHOLL,  
in 1764 and 1765, relative to the *ISLE OF  
MAN*;

AND

ABSTRACT of the Clear REVENUE of  
the *ISLE OF MAN*, from 1754 to 1763.

COPY of a LETTER, dated 25th July 1764, from  
the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to the  
Duke of Atholl, in relation to the Purchase of the  
*ISLE OF MAN*.

My Lord,

WE think proper to inform your Grace, that, in pursuance of the Powers vested in us by the 12th of George the First, we are willing to treat with you for the Purchase of the Isle of Man, or of such Part of the Rights claimed by your Grace in the said Island, as it shall be found expedient to vest in the Crown, for preventing that pernicious and illicit Trade which is at present carried on between the said Island and the other Parts of His Majesty's Dominions, in violation of the Laws, and to the great Diminution and Detriment of the Revenues of this Kingdom.

The House of Commons, during the last Session of Parliament, thought fit to enquire, whether any, and what, Steps had been taken for this Purpose; and we have Reason to think it is expected of us, that we should pursue every legal Method for

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the Prevention of this Evil. With this View we have judged it necessary, first, to inform ourselves of the present Extent of this illegal Commerce; of the Nature of those Rights, under Colour of which it is carried on; and of the Laws of this Country with respect to them. We are now ready to treat with your Grace, pursuant to the said Act of Parliament, and to receive from you a Proposal for that Purpose, specifying what Part of your Property and Rights in the said Island you are disposed to sell; and the Value you put upon them; that we may know whether the Terms are in all Respects such as we, who are Trustees for the Public, can admit: But if your Grace is not inclined to enter into a Treaty with us upon this Subject, we beg to be informed of it, that we may then pursue such other Methods as we shall think our Duty to the Public requires of us.

We are,

My Lord,

Your Grace's

most humble Servants,

GEORGE GRENVILLE,  
JOHN TURNER,  
JAMES HARRIS.

Whitehall Treasury Chambers,

25 July 1764.

COPY

**COPY of a LETTER, dated 20th August 1764, from  
the Duke of Atholl to the Commissioners of His Majesty's  
Treasury, in relation to the Sale of the ISLE OF  
MAN.**

Atholl House, 20th August 1764.

My Lords,

I HAVE received the Honor of your Lordship's Letter of the 25th of July, informing me, that, in pursuance of the Act of the 12th of King George the First, you are willing to treat with me for the Purchase of the Isle of Man.

I am very sorry to hear there has been so many Complaints of Smuggling from thence; which is a Practice I give no Manner of Encouragement to, my Revenues arising from a fair Duty collected upon the Importation of Goods.

I have the same Ideas, with regard to the Sale of the Island, that the late Duke of Atholl had; who always declared that no Temptation of Gain could induce him to give up so ancient, so honourable, and so noble a Birthright, such as no Subject of the Crown of England now has, or ever had; which has been in our Family near Four Centuries; and that he thought nothing could be an Equivalent, to one of his Rank and Circumstances, for so great a Patrimony: At the same Time his Duty and Attachment to the King was such, that, if it was esteemed, upon a full Consideration, an important Point for His Majesty's Service, and for the Good of the Public, he, in that Event, was willing to enter into a Treaty for the Disposal of it. And these are the only Reasons that can induce me to do the same.

The Purchase of the Isle of Man has been frequently thought of by former Administrations; but, upon balancing the Advantages and Disadvantages which might arise to Government, they did not think proper to treat conclusively upon it. Sir Robert Walpole made some Proposals to the late Duke, but afterwards dropt them; Mr. Pelham once seemed very desirous to bring the Sale to a Conclusion, and the Duke of Atholl gave him a true and precise State of the Nature and Revenue of this Principality, that he might be able to judge what Proposal to make; and he assured the Duke that no Proposal should come from him which he would

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not adjudge, if it was left to him to settle as an Arbitrator; however, the Affair, after being some Months in Agitation, was again dropt. It was resumed by the Duke of Newcastle, when he was First Lord of the Treasury; and the Duke of Atholl treated with the same Confidence, being averse to sell, but always ready to submit to the King's Pleasure in any Matter which he thought for the Public Good; and, having a full Reliance in the Duke of Newcastle's Honor and Justice, that, as his Brother had said, so his Grace would propose no Terms which he would not award as an Arbitrator. After the Duke of Newcastle was informed, the Matter was likewise in the same Manner laid aside.

The Reason why neither Sir Robert Walpole, Mr. Pelham, nor the Duke of Newcastle, carried it further, was thought to be, that, upon thorough Examination, the Object did not appear to them of such Consequence as it did at first; for, supposing it was in the Possession of the Government, the Proximity must still be the same; between Thirty and Forty Thousand Inhabitants must still have a Right to their Constitution, Laws, Administration of Justice, and Interior Trade and Commerce; and it would be in the Case of Guernsey, Jersey, Sark, and Alderney, where Imports and Exports are governed by their own Laws, as much as if they were under Feudatory Lords; and from these Islands they found that Smuggling was carried to a much greater Excess than from the Isle of Man; (and I am credibly informed that is still the Case). I have heard that they have often thought in Ireland of raising a large Sum to offer towards the Consideration, and upon fuller Consideration dropt it.

As I have been but a few Months in Possession of the Isle of Man, and never in the least turned my Thoughts towards a Sale of it, it is impossible for me, uninformed as I am at present, to fix upon what I should think an adequate Price for a Possession so very considerable, both for Honor and Profit; and, as I never heard of any Notion to purchase a Part only, I don't at all understand what it is: I can therefore at present have no Proposal to make, but will always be ready to receive with Respect any Proposal which shall come to me from your Lordships.

I am,  
My Lords,  
Your Lordships

Most obedient and most humble Servant,  
ATHOLL.

**COPY of a LETTER, dated 12th of September 1764,  
from the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to  
the Duke of Atholl, in relation to the Purchase of the  
ISLE OF MAN.**

My Lord,

WE have received your Grace's Letter of the 20th of August, in answer to that we wrote to you on the 25th of July, in which we informed your Grace, that, in pursuance of the Powers vested in us by 12th George I. we were willing to treat with you for the Purchase of the Isle of Man, and to receive from you a Proposal for that Purpose. Your Grace acquaints us, that, uninformed as you are at present, from the short Possession you have had of this Island, it is impossible for you to fix upon what you should think an adequate Price for it; that you cannot therefore at present make any Proposal, but that you shall always be ready to receive such as shall come to you from us.

Your Grace must be sensible, that this Objection which you alledge against making a Proposal on your Part, must operate much more strongly to prevent our making any to you; and that we, who have not even an Opportunity of informing ourselves of the Value of this Possession, cannot possibly fix upon a Price, which, as Trustees to the Public, we should think ourselves authorized to propose: But, as your Grace informs us, that when the Purchase of this Island was, on former Occasions, under Consideration, the late Duke of Atholl gave to Mr. Pelham and the Duke of Newcastle a true and precise State of the Nature of this Possession, and of the Revenue arising from it, we think it proper to desire, that if your Grace now intends to treat with us, you would in like Manner transmit to us an exact and accurate Rental of the said Revenue, specifying the several Kinds of which it consists, the Annual Amount of each, and, with respect to any Customs or Impost Duties which you may receive, the several Species of Goods on which they are levied, the Rates at which they are paid, and the Annual Amount of the Duties arising from each Species respectively: We must know the Nature, as well as Value, of every Branch of the Revenue of this Island, before we can form any Judgment of the Price which ought to be paid for it, or can determine what Part of your Grace's Possessions in this Island it

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will be necessary or expedient to purchase, in order to obtain the Benefit for which such Purchase is intended; and this is what we meant by the Proposal we made in our former Letter, of purchasing only a Part of your Grace's Property and Rights in the said Island.

As it is highly probable that Parliament will expect to be informed, in the ensuing Session, what Measures have been taken for carrying their Intentions into Execution, and what has passed upon the Subject, we are the more desirous to obtain from your Grace the Information above mentioned, in the most full and accurate Manner, that the Parliament may thereby be enabled to judge what Terms it may be proper to allow; they will then take under their Consideration the Objections mentioned by your Grace, arising from the Proximity of that Island, and from its present Constitution, Laws, and Administration of Justice, as well as its interior Trade and Commerce; and, as they have frequently made Laws respecting this Island, they will enact such other Laws, and make such further Provisions for preventing the illicit Trade carried on by Means thereof, as in their Wisdom and Justice they shall think proper.

We are,  
My Lord,  
Your Grace's  
Most humble Servants,

GEORGE GRENVILLE,  
JOHN TURNER,  
THO' ORBY HUNTER,  
NORTH.

Whitehall Treasury Chambers,  
12th September 1764.

Duke of Atholl.

C O P Y

**COPY of a LETTER from the Duke and Duchess of Atholl, to the Commissioners of the Treasury, dated February the 27th, 1765.**

London, February 27th, 1765.

My Lords,

WE have already communicated to your Lordships, and by our Petition humbly laid before Parliament, our Desire to accommodate the Public, at the Expence of our private Feelings, with any Part of our Hereditary Rights in the Isle of Man, which it may be expedient to vest in the Crown for the Public Service. Your Lordships, by your Letter of the 25th of July 1764, invited us to make Proposals, and by your Letter of the 12th September following, desired us to produce such an Account of the Nature and Amount of our Revenues, as might enable you to determine what Part of our Rights and Possessions it would be expedient to purchase, and to form a Judgment of the Price which ought to be paid for them.

This has led us into a particular Consideration of these Objects; and we are now enabled to make Proposals, and to afford your Lordships the Information you desired. The inclosed Account will shew your Lordships the Nature of our Revenues, arising from our Rights and Possessions in the Isle of Man, and the Amount of them. We are ready, if it should be deemed necessary for the Public Service, to part with all our Rights, held under the several Grants of the Isle of Man; but we apprehend, that the Reservation of our landed Revenue, together with the Patronage of the Bishoprick, and other Ecclesiastical Benefices in the Island, cannot interfere with the Interest of the Public: And we presume your Lordships will not have any Objection to our preserving the honorable Distinction and Service, which our Ancestors have so long enjoyed, and by which they held their Rights in this Island of presenting the Two Falcons at the Coronation.

The Legislature have formerly authorized us to hope, and your Lordships have called upon us to propose, a proper Compensation. We feel the Weight of this additional Difficulty, which may expose us to the Imputation of making an unreasonable Demand on

the one Hand, and of not doing sufficient Justice to our Family on the other; but the Circumstances of the Case make it necessary; and therefore, without entering into any Discussion of the various Articles of which our Rights consist, we hope neither His Majesty, nor the Parliament, will think the clear Sum of £. 70,000 too great a Price to be paid us, in full Compensation for the absolute Surrender of the Isle, Castle, and Peele of Man, and all Rights, Jurisdictions, and Interests, in or over the said Island, and all its Dependencies, holden under the several Grants thereof, or under any other Title whatsoever, reserving only our Landed Property, with all our Rights in and over the Soil, as Lords of the Manor; with all Courts Baron, Rents, Services, and other Incidents, to such Courts belonging; our Wastes, Commons, and other Lands, Inland Waters, Fisheries, and Mills; and all Mines, Minerals, and Quarries, according to our present Rights therein; Felons Goods, Deodands, Waifs, Estrays, and Wrecks at Sea; together with the Patronage of the Bishoprick, and of the other Ecclesiastical Benefices in the said Island, to which we are now entitled, to be holden of the Crown by the honorable Service abovementioned.

But we presume to hope, that our particular Situation, arising from Rent Charges and Annuities, upon our other Estates, in Consequence of Settlements made by the late Duke of Atholl, from a Prospect that the Revenues of the Isle of Man would continue to us, will, through your Lordships favorable Mediation, recommend us to His Majesty for such Mark of His Royal Munificence as, from the Consideration of the Case, shall appear to His Majesty to be reasonable.

We are,  
Your Lordships  
Most obedient Servants,

ATHOLL,  
C. ATHOLL and STRANGE.

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT of the Clear REVENUE of the Isle of Man for Ten Years, from the Year 1754 to the Year 1763,  
both inclusive.

Years.	Land Revenue, Clear Amount.	Clear Revenue of the Customs for Imports.	Clear Revenue of the Customs for Herrings.	Felons Goods, Waives and Strays, Forfeitures, Perquisites of Chancery, Wrecks at Sea, Seizures, Fines, and Perquisites out of the Spiritual Court, Freedoms of Aliens, &c <sup>a</sup> .	Clear Revenue of the Impropriated Tythes.	Clear Revenue of the Abbey Temporalities.	The Income of Lands in the Hands of the Lord of the Isle, including the Rent of Calf Isle.	T O T A L.
1754	1,376 9 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	5,944 7 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	153 14 2	28 6 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	179 18 8	121 15 —	101 6 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	7,905 17 7
1755	1,380 13 2	4,968 1 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	167 1 8	46 7 —	185 17 9	121 15 —	98 2 2	6,967 18 2 $\frac{3}{4}$
1756	1,405 16 —	4,749 1 10	147 9 2	75 9 3	187 14 6	121 15 —	97 18 8	6,785 4 5
1757	1,424 19 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	5,233 17 — $\frac{1}{2}$	136 4 8	103 3 5	147 5 —	121 15 —	102 15 11	7,270 — 10 $\frac{1}{4}$
1758	1,395 16 4	5,180 2 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	141 15 10	44 13 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	186 17 2	121 15 —	99 6 8	7,170 6 5
1759	1,396 7 —	8,082 18 —	125 19 2	68 19 1	187 15 —	121 15 —	107 19 1	10,091 12 4
1760	1,439 17 — $\frac{1}{2}$	7,093 12 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	121 19 2	406 17 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	287 13 1	121 15 —	135 4 2	9,606 18 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
1761	1,376 — 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	9,544 2 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	92 4 2	37 16 9	318 1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	121 15 —	106 8 9	11,596 10 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1762	1,375 6 5	6,391 16 10	90 19 2	81 7 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	317 15 4	121 15 —	107 8 9	8,486 9 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
1763	1,409 17 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	7,029 — 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	81 1 8	149 2 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	306 2 4	121 15 —	107 8 9	9,204 8 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
£.	13,981 4 1	64,271 — 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,258 8 10	1,042 3 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	2,305 — 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,217 10 —	1,063 19 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	85,085 6 6 $\frac{1}{4}$

The whole Revenue of the Isle for Ten Years is £.85,085. 6s. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Manks.—£.7 Manks makes £.6 British—So the Revenue for 10 Years is, in  
British Money, £.72,930. 5s. 7d.; which, at a Medium of Years, is £.7,293. —. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  per Annum.

Faithfully abstracted, this 27th of February 1765,

H U G H H A M E R S L E Y.

Note.—The Duties arising from Exports are not comprehended in the above Abstract, as their Graces are not at present provided with any particular Account thereof, these Duties having been appropriated, by Consent of the Lord, for a Term of Years, to the Repairs of the Harbours of the Isle; but that Term is now drawing to its Expiration, when these Duties will revert to the Lord, and become Part of the Annual Revenue; and there is no Prohibition of Exports from this Island, except to Great Britain, Ireland, and the Ports thereto belonging.

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Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury

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1741

Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury

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ADMITTED TO THE CITY REVENUE

OF THE KING TO MAN

1741

LETTERS

BETWEEN THE

Commissioners of His Majesty's Treas

AND THE

DUKE OF ATHOLL,

In 1764 and 1765,

relative to the ISLE OF MAN:

AND

ABSTRACT of the Clear REVENUE  
of the ISLE OF MAN,

From 1754 to 1763.

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